

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 301037Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4757

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1434

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CB

FQBJECT: SWEEPING GKR POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES

1. FOUR NEW DECREE-LAWS HAVE REAFFIRMED OR EXPANDED ON PREVIOUS LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND TEMPORILY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN GKR INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES. THE JANUARY 29-DATED DECREES: (A) ORDER CENSORSHIP OF PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH HAS, IN FACT, LONG BEEN IN FORCE; (B) SUSPEND ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS EXCEPT FOR PUBLICATIONS BELONGING TO THE STATE (THIS HAS BEEN IN FORCE SINCE MARCH 1973); (C) SUSPEND ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION BY AUTHORIZING SEARCH OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS PROVIDED AUTHORITIES SHOW PROPER IDENTIFICATION AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE LOCAL 7; OR 50-HOUSEHOLD CHIEF; AND (D) RESTRICT FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND MEETING GUARANTEED BY ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONSTITUTION BY BANNING UNAUTHORIZED MEETINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS EITHER ON THE STREET OR IN PUBLIC PLACES. RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES, FUNERALS AND FAMILY GATHERINGS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES BEFOREHAND.

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2. THE NEW MEASURES FOLLOW THE JANUARY 19 CLOSING OF ALL

PHNOM PENH'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS DURING SHELLING
OF THE CAPITAL AND THE SUBSEQUENT JANUARY 25 BROADENING
OF CURFEW HOURS TO 1900-06081 ALL FOUR BASE THEMSELVES
ON THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED LAW PROCLAIMING THE NATION
IN DANGER WHICH PERMITS THE GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE BY
DECREE IN MATTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE,, 043 , MEETINGS ANDDD
PRIVATE RESIDENCE. ON JANUARY 23 PARLIAMENT APPROVED A
SIX-MONTH RENEWAL OF THE LAW, ORIGINALLY PROMULGATED

APRIL 4, 1973. THE RENEWAL RUNS FROM OCOTOBER 12, 1973
TO APRIL 12, 1974.

3. COMMENT: THE NEW MEASURES AIM AT EASING CIVIL DEFENSE
OPERATIONS MAKING THIS PERIOD OF INTENSE ENEMY MILITARY
ACTIVITY AGAINST THE CAPITAL AND ALSO SEEK TO RESTRICT
THE ACTIVITY OF WOULD-BE ANTI-GOVERNMENT DISSIDES,
ESPECIALLY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS NOW IN SEMI-CONFRONTATION
WITH THE GKR. SUCH STERN MEASURES ARE ESSENTIALLY FOREIGN
TO THE KHMER AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT LONG BORET'S NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO ENFORCE THEM FOR LONG.
ENDERS

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